

will appreciate the interesting evening in store for you. Those of you who are to hear him for the first time will be delighted with his presentation.

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Saturday, October 1

San Joaquin General Hospital, French Camp

Dr. Samuel Hanson, Chairman

Surgical Clinic.

Proctology.

Consisting of a diagnostic and operative clinic on rectal diseases.

Dr. James W. Morgan, University of California.

One major and several minor rectal operations will be demonstrated, dependent upon the material at hand. Free discussion of diagnosis and treatment during operations as well in a special period devoted to that purpose afterward. Hemorrhoids and anal fistula will be given special attention.

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Saturday, October 8,

San Joaquin General Hospital, French Camp

Dr. Samuel Hanson, Chairman

Surgical Clinic.

Thoracoplastic Operations, Dr. Paul K. Samson and Dr. Elliot P. Smart.

Special attention will be given to the diagnostic points indicating the need for operative measures in tubercular chest conditions.

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Thursday, October 20, 8:00 p. m.

San Joaquin General Hospital, French Camp

Dr. J. W. Barnes, Chairman

Medical Clinic.

A Clinical Presentation of Medical Cases, Dr. W. J. Kerr, San Francisco.

The type of cases will be governed by the material available in the hospital at the time.

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Thursday, November 17, 8:00 p. m.

San Joaquin General Hospital, French Camp

Dr. J. W. Barnes, Chairman

Medical Clinic.

A Clinical Presentation of Medical Cases.

Visiting speaker from out of the State (to be announced later).

Subject: Certain advertised "vitality" products.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

September 21, 1938.

To the Editor:—I am enclosing herewith copies of correspondence for your information.

Sincerely yours,

J. C. GEIGER, M.D.,

Director of Public Health.

1 1 1

(COPY)

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

September 10, 1938.

[Name of firm addressed]

Dear Sir:

It has come to my notice from several sources that there is a nationally advertised product purporting to contain all the necessary substances for vitality and which is being offered for sale through department stores.

Without attempting to pass on the possible value of this product with relation to its vital content, I wish to go on record, as Director of Public Health, against this form of the practice of medicine by commercial concerns. The incomplete scientific knowledge available at this time on the possible effects of the consumption of vitamins over an indefinite period of time fully justifies the attitude that caution should be observed in the use of such products. There is considerable question of what constitutes the proper dosage of vitamins in the various age groups.

An attempt to commercialize the sale of a product containing substances whose value to the general public health

is still controversial is indeed ill-advised. Even if it is granted that the actual danger from the consumption of these products is relatively small there is as yet no definite information on the limits of safety. Vitamins are definitely in the class of medications and under that circumstance should be under the administration of a physician who has an opportunity to observe the progress of his patient rather than to be in the hands of a commercial distributor whose sole interest is the sale of his manufactured product and who may promise things that can't be delivered.

Sincerely yours,

J. C. GEIGER, M.D.,

Director of Public Health.

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(COPY)

[Name of Firm addressed]

September 16, 1938.

Dr. J. C. Geiger,
Director of Public Health,
Department of Public Health,
101 Grove Street,
San Francisco, California.
Dear Doctor Geiger:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter purported to have been written and signed by you that has just been received by me from my customer, — Company in San Francisco.

Although you carefully name no names, my customer feels that your letter is, in some way, connected with [name of product]. As we both know, there are scores of products on the market all of which are in one way or another sold through department stores throughout the whole United States. I am returning this entire correspondence to [name of company] with the statement that I am sure that no man in your position would write such a letter as this about [name of product]. There must be some mistake.

Surely, a well-informed medical man of your high office knows that [name of product] is a biologically standardized product which supplies only those vitamins already thoroughly explored, which makes none but thoroughly credited, accepted claims on or within the package, and that the product is regularly sold by duly accredited and registered pharmacists under a specific ruling of the California State Board of Pharmacy. Consequently, I am writing my friends the [name of company] that there must be some mistake. We are sure that you cannot be referring to [name of product].

We would appreciate an acknowledgment of this letter.

Respectfully,

(Signed): HENRY B. SELL,
President.

1 1 1

(COPY)

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

September 21, 1938.

My dear Mr. [name of firm]

In reply to your communication concerning vitamin products on the market, I am enclosing a copy of an executive order issued in 1934 concerning vitamin D milk. This represents the attitude of this department today just as it did four years ago.

I also wish to call your attention to the following action taken by the French Government:

"In December, 1936, the Academy of Medicine, in considering the question of the increase of the vitamin content of certain foodstuffs (milk in all its forms, flour, pastes, sugar, chocolate, etc.), pointed out that, while products thus treated are capable of having a useful action under certain circumstances, they are also capable of producing serious troubles, even death. Foods which have undergone special treatment with a view of giving them therapeutic properties must be considered as actual medicaments."

The administration of powerful medicaments should be under the constant supervision of a physician.

Sincerely yours,

J. C. GEIGER, M.D.,

Director of Public Health.